

Board MeetingDecember 14, 2021.....12:00 noon

Board Members Present: Dr. Bryan Bagdasian, Chairman
Dr. Bruce E. Bodner, Board Member
Dr. Charles A. Thayer, Board Member

Staff Present: Heather L. Gallant, Executive Director, Adam Vickstrom, Assistant
Executive Director, Kevin Duquette, Daniel Syrialala, Eileen North, Brian
McCracken, Michelle Borrello, Michele Bousquet

Others Present: Diane Heath, Peter Richer, Frank Horta, Rachel Horta, Cheryl Medeiros

1. Motion: By Dr. Thayer to approve November Board Meeting Minutes. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.

2. Sanitary Inspectors Monthly Reports were submitted for the Board's review:

Daniel Syrialala reported everything is going well. This is a busy time of year and there is a lot of perc test applications and construction going on. He has also been doing septic truck inspections.

Eileen North reported everything is going well. She opened a new business called Manny's Munchies which sells exotic snacks. She has been processing the food applications for 2022 permits.

Brian McCracken reported he has been doing routine inspections and he has not had many re-inspections to do. He has sent out late letters to businesses who have not submitted their applications for tobacco renewals. He also has been doing some housing inspections.

3. Public Health Nurse Monthly Report

Michelle Borrello reported she continues to monitor COVID-19 clusters in the city. Now that the CTC has ended the efforts fall on the local BOH. She works with the school nurses for tracing the positive students. COVID-19 Home test kits from DPH were delivered today. They will be handed out to individuals and families who are determined to be in high need. She is concerned that people will get the home test kits and feel like there is no follow up if they test positive and there's no record of it. The employee booster vaccine clinic will be Friday 12/17/2021 from 9-2pm for city employees at City Hall. She continues to work with Heather and City in trying to hire additional staff for contact tracing. It is being advertised on the City of Taunton's website.

4. Assistant Executive Director Monthly Report

Adam Vickstrom reported that the permits for hazardous materials and septic installers were mailed out. He has been doing housing and nuisance complaints when needed.

5. Executive Director Monthly Report

Heather Gallant reported the office has been busy. She appreciates everyone's help and hard work especially on the housing and nuisance front.

6. Old Business:

a. Taunton Sanitary Landfill Updates:

- a. Kevin Duquette stated he has nothing to report regarding the landfill. Everything is operating well and there has been no complaints or issues. There has been no communications from city officials regarding and delays or issues. Everything seems to be moving along accordingly.
- b. Waste Management – Peter Richer reported they continue to take in subsurface soils to get to the design grades. They will resume final capping in April to early May of 2022. By September of 2022 they will submit a closure completion report.
- c. Fortistar- No representative present

b. Western Bristol County Tobacco Prevention Collaborative – Updates

Diane Heath reported she did some routine inspections in Taunton in the month of November and there was nothing major to report. She did discover that the 44 Express on Winthrop Street is closed. She is looking to hire a part time inspector but is hoping to get authorization to hire two part time inspectors. She just finished a round of interviews and has two strong candidates.

c. Miscellaneous Heather Gallant stated there is no miscellaneous old business.

7. New Business

a. Frank and Rachel Horta – regarding violations of and requesting a variance to the Taunton Domestic Animal and Bird Regulations

Kevin Duquette received a call from DEP regarding a complaint from James & Cheryl Medeiros that 107 Plain Street was running an amusement business out of their property. There were loose chickens defecating on the jumpy houses. Kevin did a joint inspection with the state official. He saw 18-25 chickens loose on the property and 2 goats that were fenced in. Kevin measured and they were in violation of the BOH's set back requirements.

Frank & Rachel Horta requested this hearing to see if they could seek a variance from the setback requirements to keep them 93 – 96 feet away from the neighbors on either side of them and behind them. The setback requirement is 150 feet. Frank stated he has had the animals for 5 years and no one ever had a problem with them. Most of the time the chickens are in his backyard, there is no odor and he keeps their food in containers in his basement.

Ryan Donovan, a neighbor who lives on the opposite side of 107 Plain Street submitted a letter expressing concerns. He voiced concern about the noise the goats make between the hours of 4am and 7am. He is opposed of the variance.

Cheryl Medeiros, a neighbor from 105 Plain Street also expressed concerns about the chickens. She stated at times the chickens have been loose in her yard and have laid eggs on her property. There are rats in her yard which they have never had a rat problem before. She would like to see the chickens remain in a coop.

Dr. Thayer makes a motion to grant variance with the anticipation that the amount of chickens will be 10 and amount of goats will be 2. Animals will remain penned. Compliance with this needs to be checked within 6 weeks by Kevin Duquette. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.

b. Appoint a new Chairman for 2022

Dr. Bodner makes a motion to nominate Dr. Thayer as chairman of the Board of Health for 2022. Dr. Bagdasian seconded. All in favor. So voted.

c. Miscellaneous - none

8. Communications:

a. Miscellaneous - MA COVID-19 Vaccine Program

- As of 12/13/2021 5,008,626 people in MA have been fully vaccinated
- See Alert Network Bulletin
 - There is guidance relative to boosters
 - Age ranges have opened up to get initial vaccine or vaccine series depending on manufacturer

9. Any Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance- none

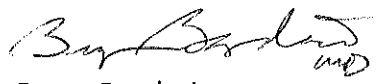
Schedule the Next Monthly Board Meeting:


Motion: By Dr. Bagdasian to have the next meeting January 11, 2022. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.

The next monthly board meeting will be January 11, 2021 at 12:00 noon.

Motion: For adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Bryan Bagdasian
Chairman


Dr. Bruce E. Bodner
Board Member


Dr. Charles A. Thayer
Board Member